



Lt. Governor Skillman Wraps up February

There are two major activities that kept me busy during the month of February: the legislative session and the federal stimulus funding. The outcome of both will have a lasting impact, and it is critical that we get it right.

In this Issue:

Indiana One of Three States Remaining with a Budget Surplus

Hoosier Heroes Receive Recognition

Purdue Fries Fish to Celebrate Indiana Agriculture

Hoosiers Receive Honors for their Hard Work

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Indiana One of Three States with a Surplus

Unlike most states, Indiana has not been forced to make dramatic decisions just to keep state government functioning. Some are raising taxes, while others are cutting education and healthcare, and releasing prisoners early. Thanks to many partners in progress, Indiana is not in that predicament and is one of only three states with a surplus.

I spoke to members of the Indiana Builders Association and to the nation's Subaru suppliers in February, and shared Indiana's progress. These two groups are among many organizations and companies that are helping to move Indiana forward. It was a pleasure to be able to spend some time with them, and give them an update on Indiana's fiscal and economic strength.



Lt. Governor Skillman works in the Senate chamber with Indiana Senate Parliamentarian Gene

Leeuw before presiding over the senate.

The end of the month marked the half-way point for Indiana legislators. Much was accomplished, but stay tuned for the end result. In the senate we saw breakthroughs to reform local government and protect taxpayers. These measures now go to the House, and I hope they continue to put the interest of Hoosiers first. For more information on the progress of the legislature, [visit my Web site](#).

Also, in February we learned more about stimulus funds from the federal government. Where we have discretion with the federal stimulus dollars, we will do all we can to put Hoosiers to work. I chair the task force that oversees funding coming to the state agencies, and we will look favorably on projects that attempt to create jobs quickly while leaving a lasting impact. Indiana is in a position to take this opportunity and make a real difference, if any state can.

Hoosier Heroes Receive Recognition

Saving lives, saving property, and saving the environment from destruction requires the skills that only a firefighter can provide. Our Indiana firefighters are good at what they do, and deserve recognition. That's why it was a pleasure to be able to spend some time talking to firefighters at the Indiana Fire Institute Dinner, and share the state's efforts to improve public safety.



Lt. Gov. Skillman talks with attendees before speaking at the Indiana Fire Institute Dinner.

Our Department of Homeland Security's Firefighter Training System is three years old now. We're training career and volunteer firefighters across the state, providing a uniform, essential foundation training with funds collected from the public safety tax on fireworks sales. We are also training more

firefighters through certification courses, which are free of charge. Last year, 600 firefighters went through courses and are now ready to get to work.

We also have a couple of mobile training units that have been traveling the state. The Live Fire Trainer - purchased with Public Safety Training funds - has been on the road for five months and more than 2,000 firefighters have been trained. We also have the Haz Mat Trainer, which was purchased with Federal funding. It has been on the road for three months and more than 400 have been trained. These mobile units takes training to places where it's not available.

Those are just a few of the things we've been working on. I'm proud of the support Indiana is giving the public safety community, and I look forward to seeing that

support continue. Our Hoosier firefighters deserve the best training we can provide.

Purdue Fries Fish to Celebrate Indiana Agriculture

I spoke at Purdue University's Ag Alumni Association's annual fish fry, and for the first time in years fish was on the menu along with Indiana pork. The farm-raised perch was from Delaware County. Each year the Ag Alumni Fish Fry celebrates the importance of the agriculture industry in Indiana. The stakes are high for Hoosiers right now. We are working our way through a tough economic period. We need all sectors, from agriculture and business, to state and local government, to play a role in moving Indiana forward. Indiana agriculture is a cornerstone in our state's economy and we will continue to rely on that strength to move us forward.



Lt. Gov. Skillman spends time with Purdue Ag Alumni before speaking at their annual Fish Fry.

Hoosiers Receive Honors for their Hard Work

In February, I presented the Indiana Economic Development Corporation's (IEDC) Indiana Small Business Development Center's first ever Economic Development and Growth through Entrepreneurship (EDGE) Awards and the Hoosier Homestead awards.

Both awards recognize the work Hoosiers do. I presented to 35 families the Hoosier Homestead award for keeping their farm in the family for at least 100 years. Nineteen promising new and established businesses received the state's first ever EDGE awards.

All recipients awarded the Hoosier Homestead award and EDGE award are helping to move Indiana forward. There is no better feeling than to honor a Hoosier homegrown company or farm, especially to those that continue to grow and create new jobs.



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Want to know what I'm working on and can't wait until the end of the month to receive the month in review? Follow me on Twitter and be instantly updated. Twitter, a social networking

site, is a great tool that allows me to share with anyone what I'm doing. Twitter is allowing for more transparency in state government, and is an easy, free way to

connect to your state government. [Check it out.](#)



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